update

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UNDP prepared to aid former Soviet Republics

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has called for a US$50 million aid package for immediate technical assistance needs to the former Soviet Republics. UNDP is prepared to coordinate United Nations emergency and technical assistance, and help lay the groundwork for administrative reform, private enterprise development, and economic and banking reform in the 12 former republics, now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The UNDP plan was presented at an international conference on aid to the former Soviet Republics, held at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. on 22-23 January. Funds for the UNDP plan will be sought outside of existing regional and country programmes.

Top officials from more than 45 countries and aid agencies came to the summit to hammer out a plan ensuring that aid efforts to the former Soviet Union are well coordinated.

UNDP is already providing private sector assistance to Central and Eastern Europe. In Albania and Hungary, for example, UNDP helped in negotiations with potential foreign investors, and assisted in drafting legislation for offshore oil exploration and mining. Albania's former Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Head of the Central Bank have each received management training through UNDP support.

At the aid summit in Washington, D.C., UNDP proposed similar initiatives to help the Commonwealth States in their transition to a market economy. UNDP's proposed action plan would include needs assessments of humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction requirements for each country. UNDP would assist in planning, coordinating and monitoring the United Nations humanitarian efforts to the former republics. It would also provide direct advisory services for the first steps in the transition to market economies and administrative reform.

Needs of Baltic States targeted

UNDP and the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are preparing to work together in four main areas: strengthening the Central Bank, promoting the private sector, protecting the environment, and advising on international conventions and national legislation in social and economic.

Moreover, all three governments have expressed interest in having UNDP offices in their countries. A UNDP team and representatives of the three newly independent nations discussed these and other programme specifics at a recent joint meeting in Tallinn, Estonia.

UNDP will also set up and manage a trust fund for technical cooperation for the Baltic States. Each government was encouraged to seek outside contributors to the fund. UNDP reviewed possible sources of assistance at the recent meeting.

During a special session this month, UNDP's Governing Council will consider the request of the three countries to receive recipient status with UNDP. This would entitle them to an Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)—a formula based largely on each country's population and per capita gross national product—which determines the amount of UNDP assistance each country would receive in the 1992-1996 cycle. It is likely that the IPFs for each of the Baltic nations would range from just under $1 million to $1.3 million.

Asia and Pacific in good shape to receive foreign aid

"The nations of Asia and the Pacific are in the best condition they have ever been to make the most of foreign aid," said Krishan G. Singh, UNDP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. He spoke in Manila at the Fifth Meeting of Aid Coordinators of Asia and the Pacific (MAC 5), which was coordinated by UNDP and hosted by the Government of the Philippines on 20-25 January.

Mr. Singh said that strong economic performance by many countries, continuing reforms in centrally planned economies and a willingness of nations to work together make the Asia-Pacific region a good investment for donors and private investors over the next five years.

Delegates from 27 countries endorsed the Fifth Inter-Country Programme (1992-1996), which had been presented by UNDP. The programme themes—poverty alleviation, economic reform and environmental management—coincide with the national development plans and priorities of many countries.

in this issue:

projects approved: **Boosting agricultural production in Chad • Streamlining bureaucracy in Argentina • Bolivia: self-help projects and rural development • Improved monitoring of Chad's oil industry • More public sector reform in Colombia • New plant for antibiotics in Cuba • El Salvador strengthens health and education management • India to design cyclone-resistant buildings • Radio licensing made easier in Iran • Malawi improves finance skills • Mexico promotes rural initiatives • New low-cost latrines for Mozambique • Niger's forests secured • Oman's date palm production modernized • Paraguay reorganizes commerce ministry**

Mr. Singh said that he was gratified at the way sub-regional organizations are beginning to cooperate in development and economic issues. As an example, he cited cooperation among the two Koreas, China and Mongolia which have agreed to explore joint development of the Tumen River Basin. The Northeast Asia group, which is informally joined by Japan and the Russian Republic, is also due to tackle such sub-regional issues as air pollution and agriculture.

During the MAC 5, aid coordinators and UNDP Resident Representatives flew over Mt. Pinatubo and visited affected communities. "It is clear that such disasters have a direct impact on development and that all of the delegates have a direct stake in reducing the damage done," said Mr. Singh.

Japan and former Soviet Union back UN Volunteers to Cambodia

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has agreed to provide $200,000 for United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) operations in Cambodia. The Japanese-funded UNV team will support the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia as it helps manage Cambodian elections, scheduled for Spring 1993. Plans are underway to deploy UNV advance teams within a few months.

In addition, UNDP will provide assistance to more than 25 UNV specialists who will be sent to Cambodia from the Commonwealth of Independent States. These UNV specialists will provide expertise to the Cambodian-Soviet Friendship Institute of Technology, and will include experts in geology, electronics, hydrology, chemistry, computer science and engineering.

Programme created to meet challenges of HIV/AIDS epidemic

UNDP has established an HIV and Development Programme to coordinate and provide policy and programme guidelines for UNDP's work related to the HIV epidemic. The new programme will manage UNDP resources directed toward the epidemic, and assist in community-based approaches in monitoring and evaluating the disease.

The new office will help increase national and global awareness of the implications of the epidemic on human, social and economic development, and will disseminate research and identify experts. Located in UNDP's Division for Global and Interregional Programmes, the HIV programme will work closely with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, other UN agencies, bilateral donors, national governments and non-governmental organizations.

projects endorsed by the action committee

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

8 January 1992

Chad — The UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) is helping to design a large-scale plan to develop and manage natural resources in the Kanem region. Special attention will be given to promoting the participation of local communities, increasing agricultural and livestock production and protecting rangelands from desertification. The plan will then be submitted to the International Fund for Agricultural Development for financing. Proposed UNSO budget from the Canadian trust fund: $2,063,000 for an international agronomist and a UNV expert in credit and management. Funds will also be used for a credit scheme, a subcontract with an African research institute in irrigation and training. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. (CHD/89/X03)

18 December 1991

Argentina — The introduction of administrative reforms in Buenos Aires is part of a national effort to streamline public bureaucracy. A management unit will be set up for decentralizing selected municipal services. New pay scales and a new employee recruitment system will be developed. Approximately 14,000 municipal staff will receive training in planning, institutional development and management. Funds of $6,919,600 from government cost-sharing are to pay for a project coordinator, consultants in administrative systems, public policy and law, training programmes, computer systems design and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Municipality of Buenos Aires. (ARG/90/005)

Bolivia — To stem rural-urban migration, this project will ensure sustainable development in the department of Potasi, located in an arid region of the Andes. UNDP will help strengthen the Regional Corporation for the Development of Potosi (CORDEPO), a government entity that promotes self-help community ventures. Assistance includes decentralizing CORDEPO's operations and administrative procedures. Feasibility studies will be conducted for marketing agricultural products and for building additional irrigation systems. Credit schemes will be improved.

Third-party cost-sharing from the Netherlands: $2,490,983 for marketing experts, an agronomist, consultants in administrative systems, plot irrigation and soil management. Funds will also pay for subcontracts, training, construction costs of irrigation systems, and a revolving fund. Government-executed and implemented by CORDEPO. (BOL/89/023)

Bolivia — Assistance in institution-building is also being provided for the Regional Corporation for the Development of Oruro (CORDEOR). UNDP will help strengthen CORDEOR's technical capabilities in identifying, evaluating and controlling new investment projects in agriculture and rural development. Third-party cost-sharing from Germany for $1,783,862 will pay for experts in administrative systems, communications and soil management, training and equipment for hydraulic systems, irrigation systems and a soil and water laboratory. Government-executed and implemented by the CORDEOR. (BOL/91/014)

Bolivia — Management support will be provided for the Ministry of Agriculture and its related offices in order to improve policies and

economic analysis for agricultural investment. Information management systems will be devised. Proposed UNDP contribution: $474,200. Third-party cost-sharing: $4,233,340. Funds are to pay for international experts, training and equipment. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. (BOL/91/010)

Chad — This extension project is geared toward developing the petroleum industry in Chad. In the late 1980s the government, assisted by the World Bank, designed a petroleum and power project to develop the Sedigi oil field, a 345-kilometre pipeline to N'Djamena, and a refinery and power plant. UNDP is helping to strengthen and monitor all activities in the petroleum sector. Technical assistance will be provided for establishing exploration license legislation, conducting economic analysis, creating training programmes and setting up a computerized national petroleum database. Additional UNDP contribution: $770,000 for petroleum legal and economics experts, petroleum engineers, training and equipment. The effort is also being supported by the Swiss government. Executed by the UN Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and implemented by the Presidency of the Republic of Chad. (CHD/89/001)

Colombia — UNDP will help upgrade the management of municipalities as part of a government drive to reform the public sector. Specific areas of assistance include planning, finance, project management, municipal administration and grassroots participation in development. Management training for both public and private institutions will be developed and some 685 municipalities will receive assistance in identifying their institutional needs. A new communications system between national institutions, regional offices and local governments will be created. Proposed UNDP contribution: $100,000. Government cost-sharing: $3,615,000. Funds will pay for training and equipment, international experts in institutional development and information management. Government-executed and implemented by the Departamento Nacional de Planificacion. (COL/91/002)

Colombia — A national rehabilitation plan was launched with assistance from UNDP to support the process of government reconciliation with revolutionary groups in Colombia. The aim is to integrate revolutionary groups into the country's political system and socio-economic development efforts. Newly organized grassroots groups, called Municipal Councils of Rehabilitation, will receive management training. Proposed UNDP contribution: $500,000. Government cost-sharing: $3,181,430. Funds will pay for experts, training and equipment for transportation and information systems. Government-executed and implemented by the National Rehabilitation Plan Directorate. (COL/91/008)

Cuba — Support for the Centro de Quimica Farmaceutica will advance production of antibiotics. A pilot plant, now under construction, will receive equipment and technical assistance to become operational. Staff will receive training in microbiology, genetics and fermentation technology. Feasibility studies will be conducted for the industrial production of antibiotics. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,875,000 for experts, equipment and training. Government-executed and implemented by the Centro de Quimica Farmaceutica. (CUB/91/001)

Cuba — A biotechnology plant for producing cellular cultures will be established with UNDP assistance. Cellular cultures are used for the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases. The plant will be equipped with bioreactors and fermenters. Training will be provided for about 120 technicians and scientists. A quality control system and patent registration will be developed. Proposed UNDP contribution: $800,000 for experts, equipment and training. Government-executed and implemented by the Center for Molecular Immunology of the Ministry of Health. (CUB/91/010)

El Salvador — UNDP supported the government in identifying and formulating plans for a $26 million World Bank-financed loan to improve delivery of health and education services. This project will focus on strengthening management, planning, human resources development, and information and monitoring systems within the Ministries of Public Health, Education and Planning. Nearly 2,100 primary health care workers will receive training. Maternal child health and nutrition programmes will also be developed. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2.6 million for experts, subcontracts, training and equipment. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Planning. (ELS/91/009)

India — Technical support will be provided for the Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), a Madras-based institute responsible for drawing up building codes. Located in cyclone-prone Madras, the Centre will be assisted in conducting field experiments and simulation studies. Results from these studies will be used to identify structural designs for cyclone-resistant buildings. Proposed UNDP contributions: $1.5 million for engineering experts, training, and equipment for a wind tunnel lab and field tests. Government-executed and implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, SERC. (IND/91/011)

Iran — This institution-building project will enable the Frequency Management and Planning Division of the Telecommunication Centre of Iran to respond more quickly to public radio licensing requests. The effort will establish procedures for licensing and administration, and computerize the Frequency Planning and Management Unit. Proposed UNDP contribution: $300,000, of which $30,000 is government cost-sharing. Funds Telecommunications Union and implemented by the Telecommunications Centre of Iran, Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones. (IRA/90/005)

Malawi — This follow-up phase will help improve the calibre of finance personnel by upgrading training programmes at the Malawi College of Accountancy. New training courses will be developed for district accountants and government staff. The project is expected to produce a total of 800 graduates. Scholarships will also be established for women.

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Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,345,000 for course developers, fellowships and training. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Education/Malawi College of Accountancy. (MAL/90/003)

Mexico — Technical support will be provided for establishing a monitoring and evaluation system within the Instituto Nacional Indigenista (INI), a government institution which promotes community initiatives in rural areas. Assistance will enhance INI's ability to allocate resources for self-help activities. Special attention will be given to promoting participation of women. The World Food Programme will also support the project. Proposed UNDP contribution: $20,000 for training, and a subcontract for designing a project monitoring and evaluation system. Government-executed and implemented by the INI. (MEX/91/002)

Mozambique — UNDP assistance will support the National Low-Cost Sanitation Programme geared toward large-scale production of latrines. The programme will assist in training for installation, use and maintenance of low-cost latrines. Funds of $1.2 million from third-party cost-sharing from the Netherlands will pay for sanitation engineers, training, equipment, operations and maintenance. Government-executed and implemented by the Institute for Rural Development. (MOZ/91/014)

Niger — Reforestation and soil conservation will be implemented in 27 villages bordering protected forests in Niger's southern region. Proposed UNDP contribution: $2,128,500 for a specialist in agroforestry and land management, a UNV in administration, extension service workers, training and scholarships to the Agroforestry Institute in Niger or Mali. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Water Works and Environment. (NER/90/016)

Oman — Date palm production will increase through the development of improved methods of farm management, processing, marketing and pest control. Training will also be provided for 40 national staff, extension workers and 500 farmers. Funds of $970,249 from government cost-sharing will pay for study tours, date production experts, and UNVs in food technology. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. (OMA/91/002)

Paraguay — Technical support will be provided to reorganize the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Several units will be created to provide training and management services to manufacturers, artisans and private businesses. Experts will also advise on international trade negotiation and patent legislation. UNDP budget: $5,722,400, of which $5,150,400 is government cost-sharing. Funds are to pay for international consultants in production technology, international law and investments. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. (PAR/91/007)

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Human Development